

The effect of the cinematograph on the eyes finally depends upon the individual himself. Some persons can attend daily without evil results while others cannot stay through a single picture without ocular fatigue. This depends to a great extent upon the nervous predisposition and those with this idiosyncrasy should remain away from the cinematograph.

APPENDICITIS: THEN AND NOW.

By JNO. C. KING, M. D., Banning.

I report the following case merely as an illustration of the change that has occurred during the past thirty years in the attitude of the profession toward appendicitis. In the summer of 1880 I attended a case of what we then called peri-typhilitis. An abscess formed. The patient became very ill. I requested a consultation with a view to operation. The consultant, an able man of large experience, decided that operation was unjustifiable and advised ointment of iodide of potassium, well rubbed in. Forty-eight hours later, feeling that operation was imperative, I sent to Cincinnati for a well-known surgeon, professor of surgery in a college there. Upon examination he declared the man would die under any circumstances; that he would not risk his reputation by operating; that aspiration of the pus was the only thing good surgery demanded. (He kindly offered to send me an aspirator.) The patient was becoming septic; so, after another forty-eight hours, I insisted upon opening him. He gave consent. I asked a number of physicians to give ether, but, although several of them had anesthetized patients for me for other purposes, none would give ether in this instance, deeming it improper to attempt operation. I finally told the man to get another doctor; that I felt he would die unless the pus could be removed; that none of my friends would assist me in doing what I thought needful. He replied that I could go ahead without an anesthetic; that he could stand it if I could. The patient's brother had threatened to kill any one who would attempt to cut him; so, while his wife stood guard at the door, I cautiously opened the abscess. It is difficult to realize that what we now deem so simple and necessary a procedure should then have been considered so absolutely wrong. The tension in the abscess was such that the pus spurted up not less than an inch when the knife reached it. I evacuated all I could and dressed the wound. Before my return the next day, one of my colleagues, a leading man, visited the patient unbidden, removed the dressings and examined the wound, notwithstanding the protest of the wife. He declared the man would die; that I had been guilty of malpractice; that he would be glad to be called upon as a witness in the prosecution that he knew must follow; that he had taken the liberty of examining the patient before death with that end in view. A year ago Dr. T. B. Wright, of Pasadena, brought to me a message from the patient, Col. M. V. B. L., of Circleville, Ohio, to the effect that he was still living. This story is amusing and almost incredible now, but thirty-two years ago it meant a real battle for a very young and fairly ignorant surgeon.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE TUBERCULOSIS COMMISSION.*

By GEORGE H. KRESS, M. D., Los Angeles, Chairman of the Commission.

The particular reason for giving the California State Tuberculosis Commission a place on this

morning's program was to officially and briefly call to the attention of the members of the State Medical Society, somewhat of the nature of this newly formed commission and of some of the things it hoped to do.

As you all know, the last legislature appropriated five thousand dollars, to be spent by a special tuberculosis commission to be appointed by the California State Board of Health, this commission to use this money to "ascertain the effects of localities, employments, conditions and circumstances on the health of those developing tuberculosis, and to determine the best means of eradication thereof."

After a good deal of preliminary correspondence by Dr. Wm. F. Snow, the State Health Board Secretary, with all the anti-tuberculosis societies and others known to be interested in the prevention and cure of tuberculosis in California, the State Board of Health decided to appoint a State Tuberculosis Commission consisting of an executive committee of five and an advisory board of fifty.

The State Board of Health appointed on the executive board of five the following persons:

Dr. C. C. Browning of Los Angeles, Miss Katherine Felton of San Francisco, Dr. R. G. Broderick of San Francisco, Mr. A. Bonnheim of Sacramento, Dr. George H. Kress of Los Angeles, chairman.

The executive board held its first meeting at Sacramento last fall and it was then decided, in joint session with the State Board of Health, that the local headquarters for the work of investigation should be the office of the State Board of Health at Sacramento, where access could be had to all the vital statistics of the state, and where the other trained assistants of the State Health Board as well as the special employees of the Tuberculosis Commission could be under the constant supervision of our efficient State Health Board Secretary, Dr. Wm. F. Snow.

It was also decided that the Advisory Board of fifty prominent physicians and laymen interested in the prevention of tuberculosis, should be divided into ten sub-committees, each of which sub-committees was to have as its chairman one of the members of the Executive Committee, the idea here being to centralize the responsibility of the actual work of the members of the Executive Board, so that at the quarterly meetings of that Executive Board it might be possible to have a first hand knowledge of the work in progress.

The divisions of these ten special lines of investigation and the personnel of the complete commission, are as follows:

1. Institutional Activities: Administration. Dr. Browning, chairman.

2. Institutional Activities: Construction. Dr. Browning, chairman. The construction and administration of sanatoria, hospitals, dispensaries, camps, etc., are included in the work of these committees as well as home treatment and general prophylaxis.

3. School Construction and Health Administration of Schools. Miss Felton, chairman.

* Report to the annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of California at Del Monte, Cal., on April 17, 1912.